



MEETING MINUTES / 15 OCTOBER 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Stewart, Bradley, Farley, Johnson, Lardizzzone, Lopez (phone), Magner, McMullen, Newman (phone), Newstadt, Sarg, Seppala **85.7%**

Excused: Showell, Baldwin

Unexcused:

Guests: Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC), Liz Byers-Jiron (Veteran Stand Down), Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, Bill Peterson

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS (Meeting Chaired by Commissioner Stewart):

Presented Commissioner Johnson with a plaque and card acknowledging his time with the commission and his move to Florida

- Commissioner Johnson thanked the agency and commissioners for their efforts

MEETING MINUTES:

September minutes were motioned by Lardizzzone and McMullen

Johnson reminded everyone that chapter 1 (KVWA) donated monies toward the stand down

Bradley noted he was present during the August meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director

Extremely busy September with multiple events geared toward veterans

Has final drawings and approvals for Dover CBOC, projected late 2020 opening

Mission Act implementation challenges with community care

- Specifically Sussex County having limited services in the community with new third party vendor

- Seeking specialty care, in Sussex County, as requested by veterans

Public Affairs Officer position is still vacant, recruiting for a fill

1 Oct: The campus began being smoke-free following a national mandate

(McMullen) Voiced a complaint that a consult for a civilian practitioner wasn't answered

Will follow up offline

(Newstadt) Complimented flu shot operations

(Sarg) Is it a shortage of providers or a shortage of provider who want to participate in the Mission Act program?

Both issues apply

17:30

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Vacant, Director:

Updates read by Director Kirby

73 residents

Dining room glass partitions were shipped on 14 October with one week expected delivery and another week installation

- Still anticipate 25 November grand opening

Blue Suite renovations and addition of the spa are on going

Two proposals are being considered for the dental suite

- Both would authorize access for veterans, in the community, without entering the residential area

Job fair was successful leading to more hirings, primarily certified nursing assistants

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Byers-Jiron, Veterans Stand Down

Thanked stand down volunteers, agencies and is processing the final report

- Approximately over 1000 attendees and over 140 agencies present

- Focused on suicide prevention

Stand down kickoff meeting scheduled for 23 January

Recognized T.J. Healy for Voices of War, oral history work through Veterans Story Project

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:

Interments – 79 (+9)

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 21 (-3)

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Brain Injury Council has monies available for home modification

Mentioned a Dover Post article for a Delaware Veterans Home veteran with Frontal Temporal Degeneration

- Emphasized that the home is a skilled nursing facility designed to take care of veterans

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Have not received legislative inputs

(Sarg) Asked to receive inputs by 30 October

(Sarg) Lobbied with U.S. Delegation to eliminate widow's tax

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 8; Granted 2 (25%); Awarded \$2,411.17; Balance - \$81,797.55

Urged commissioners to speak to their district legislators about sponsoring or supporting veteran related legislation

(Farley) Made recommendation for commission to host an icebreaker for state legislators

- Benefits are meeting commission personnel and discuss veteran issues

(Sarg) Should invite state legislators to veteran service organization meetings

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter led successful POW/MIA week

AFSA's legislative platform was made available to base personnel

Chapter continues Veterans Home participation

16 October: Boscov's fundraiser, 25% off shopping, pass can be purchased for \$5.00

20 September: Attended POW/MIA retreat service

11 October: Participated in DCVA Executive meeting

26 October: Attended Dover AFB Retiree Day

Vacant (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

11 September: Post 2 held 9/11 service

20 September: Attended Veterans Stand Down

23 October: Post 2 is hosting DAV van to provide benefits information

25 October: Ladies Auxiliary is hosting Truck or Treat in Post 2 parking lot, beginning at 1730

24 September: Post 2 is hosting a member's pig roast

Thanks for Valerie Camarillo, VA Outreach for attending post's August meeting

Post 2 is hosting a Veterans Day service

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

1 October: Attended DVH admission meeting

October: Held DAV departmental meeting

3 October: Attended Friends of Veterans Home meeting

10 October: Held DAV Chapter 1 meeting

18 September – 10 October: Service Officers assisted 100 veterans seeking benefits

21 October: Wreaths Across America meeting

22 – 24 October: Mobile Service Officers will be at Del Tech (Dover), AMVETS Post 2, and DAV Headquarters

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans)

Both chapters are experiencing membership and attendance issues

Chapter 1 has begun a new membership program and has selected organization to receive assistance

Visited Chapter 2 to request a commissioner replacement

- Trying membership program and continuing to raise money

Attended Stand Down and received a plaque for the chapter's donation

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

20 September: Attended Veterans Stand Down

23 October / 1300: Next Mayor's Veterans Crisis Awareness Challenge meeting

- Emphasis is on multiple agencies working together to address veteran suicide

- Promoted Operation Save cards with phone numbers and tips for assisting veterans in need

Participated in various events promoting Toys for Tots

- <https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/toys-cit-county.aspx?txtState=DELAWARE>

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

17 September: Attended Economic Development Conf.

20 September: Attended Veterans Stand Down

23 September: Attended DE Veterans Coalition meeting

25 September: Attended Mayor's Veterans Crisis meeting

1 October: Attended DVH Admissions meeting

3 October: Attended Friends of DVH meeting

7 October: Attended Brain Injury Fund and Committee meetings

11 October: Attended DCVA Executive meeting

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

26 September: Chapter 9377 meeting, approved \$500.00 donation for Wilmington VAMC Holiday Food Drive

12 October: Chapter 9377 held fall fundraiser at Hockessin Acme store

- Raised \$1,128.00 for Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Attended Stand Down and Vet Fest

- Sold books to raise trust fund monies

Attended Veterans Mental Health Summit

28 October: Attending Norfolk Mental Health Summit

Secured funding for Laurel Military Academy

- Requesting Army JROTC support

Conducting trust fund, fundraising events at Charter School of Wilmington and DMA

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

MaryAnne Doughy, Biden Center is seeking ways to support veterans' initiatives

- Asked commissioners to share ideas

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Presented an award to Farley

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

20 September: Attended Delaware National Guard POW/MIA chair dedication ceremony

14 October: Worked at Military Museum

Planning Veterans Day service at personal retirement community, 92 veterans live there

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

19 September: Attended Stand Down meeting and set up at Schutte Park

20 September: Served as Veterans Stand Down registration lead

25 September: Attended Mayor's Veterans Crisis meeting

26 September: Attended Other Than Honorable Discharge Consortium

- 15 lawyers assisted in 23 cases

- Represented a soldier and presented ABCMR

2 October: Started By-Laws approval process at DelVets Post 2 Executive Board meeting

10 October: Attended Stand Down AAR

- Provided information on future improvements

- Various organizations presented a signed flag

19 October: Monster Mile Walk for breast cancer awareness, Dover Racetrack

3 November / 0900: DelVets Post 1 Toys for Tots 5K

9 November: DelVets Post 2 will sponsor a table at the trust fund dinner

10 November: Veterans Day Ceremony, Elk Lodge Post 1903

- Serving as guest speaker

12 November: Veterans Response Team Briefing

- Briefing with TCM Post Deployment Team

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Nothing to report

TERM COMPLETION:

EVENTS:

17 October / 0830: DJF Meeting, Adams Service Center, Georgetown

21 October / 1000: Wreaths Across America Planning Meeting, Tatnall Building

26 October / 0800: Dover AFB Retiree Day

5 November / 1000: Veterans Health and Career Fair, Tower at STAR, University of Delaware

9 November / 1800: Trust Fund Dinner, Dover Downs

11 November / 1030: Bridge Ceremony (Stewart)

11 November / 1400: VVA Veterans Service, Kent County Park

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Submission of Legislative Concerns

NEW BUSINESS:

(Lardizzone) Mentioned the Delaware Veterans Home Administrator is leaving at the end of October and the position has been posted

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Bill Peterson mentioned the state treasurer is seeking veteran names for her recognition program

- Requested the commissioners forward the names of veterans for consideration

CLOSED SESSION:

None

SPECIAL SESSION:

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at 1000

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs